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KOMER REPORTS ON PACIFICATION

Explains Use of Computer
to Analyze Program

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 1 (UPI) — United States officials in charge of pacification said today that 11,237,000 of the people of South Vietnam—66.1 per cent—lived in areas secure from the Vietcong guerrillas.

A report said the balance—about six million people—was almost evenly divided between "contested" areas and areas dominated by the guerrillas.

The report, prepared by a computer, said about 5.2 million people lived in rural hamlets dominated or strongly influenced by the Vietcong, and that pacification programs in these places were either inadequate or nonexistent.

Pacification, often described as "Vietnam's other war," is the effort to hold areas under Government control and win areas under guerrilla control through broad programs of pol-



The New York Times
Robert W. Komer, civilian
chief of pacification work.

itical and social reforms. It is sometimes described as "the war to win the hearts and minds of the people."

Most Live in The Cities

Of the 11,237,000 South Vietnamese who are said to be secure from the Vietcong, about 3.5 million live in cities, where Government control has always been strong, the report said.

The figures were for the month of October. The January breakdown of the total population was 62.1 per cent in secure areas, 18.5 per cent in contested areas and 19.4 per cent in Vietcong areas.

In October, the report said, 16.2 per cent were in contested areas and 17.2 per cent in Viet Cong areas.

Efforts in the pacification field have been sharply increased in recent months. The program was placed under the American military command in September and Robert W. Komer was named by President Johnson as the civilian chief of the effort.

Mr. Komer, a deputy United States ambassador here, gave some details today at a news conference. He said the figures he announced were the result of a computer system that analyzes reports from pacification workers in the countryside.

Reliability Questioned

Mr. Komer was asked if there was a tendency on the part of pacification teams in the field to upgrade their areas in order to show steady progress.

"We're trying to get away from the optimism factor," Mr. Komer said. He said district pacification advisers had been told that their efficiency ratings and promotions would not depend upon how much progress they reported in their areas.

He said the purpose of the "hamlet evaluation system" was "to find out what is really happening hamlet by hamlet." Such events as a Vietcong mortar attack on a hamlet would influence its ratings.

"Without continuing security the rest of pacification cannot go under way," Mr. Komer said.

Questioned about the system, Mr. Komer said his computers could not measure the loyalty of the people of the South Vietnamese Government or their attitude toward the Vietcong.

Concedes Tash is Difficult

He said it was difficult, without a series of psychological tests, "to measure the hearts and minds of the people."

Mr. Komer said the computer system, which took 14 months to establish, placed each of the 12,600 hamlets in South Vietnam in one of six categories on the basis of 18 criteria. These include security from attack, economic development, health, education and public welfare.

Reports from 222 American advisers throughout the nation are fed into the computer every month, and the computer separates the hamlets into categories ranging from "A" (secure) to "V" (Vietcong-dominated).

Mr. Komer said the largest single category in October was "V", with 3,989 hamlets having a population of 2,804,000.

There were 216 "A" hamlets, with a population of 659,700 and functioning economic programs, schools, clinics and a strong government military presence, he said.

File: Vietnam Internal Security

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This is the DOD Army computer effort that we heard about from Col. Westerman's shop.

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